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VACAVALLEY RADIO CLUB

VACAVILLE , CALIFORNIA **April 2014**

Mike W6MAV

Presidents Message,

VERY IMPORTANT MESSAGE, PLEASE READ!!!

Lurking in the depths of the new health care package is a time bomb waiting to affect all US Amateur Radio Operators; The new Talk And Pay (TAP) Tax. What does the TAP Tax do? Well, just as it implies, it adds a tax on to each amateur license, based on usage of the bands.

The FCC knew it was going to be troublesome to enforce this kind of regulation, so they came up with a clever scheme – taxation by license class. All Technician, General, and Extra Class Licensees will be taxed at a different rate. Any holdover licenses from different classes will be taxed at the next higher rate, so novice license holders will be taxed as technicians, advanced holders as extra class licensees and so on. The logic is that higher class licenses can use more of the frequencies; therefore they pay a larger percentage.

There are even paragraphs that define taxing stations that haven't operated, (although you have to prove that by filing a waiver), stations where the license holder has become a silent key (a different waiver), and repeater or space stations (when the license is held by a non-profit group, you can apply for a waiver as well).

The legislators have even thought of the mechanism to capture revenue from youngsters, in their special Tax On Eventual Earnings (TOE) tax. So, a youngster who is not working will pay into a TOE TAP TAX account, in the

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Skip" Lawson AF6HC

VVRC Meeting Notes

A number of board members and membership at large met for a "*meet-'n-eat*" at Napoli Pizzeria on Elmira Rd. before the March meeting. We then moved to the Elmira Fire House where President Mike – W6MAV, officially called the meeting to order at 19:00 hr.

His first action was to call for a motion to accept the Secretary's notes as published. A motion was made / seconded / accepted.

Treasurer, Bob – K6HEW, presented the club's financial picture: $2488.10 in the General fund; $848 in the Repeater Fund; $43 in the Prize fund; bringing the total balance to $3336.10.

VP Jerry – KD6WKY, reviewed the upcoming Field Day, which is traditionally held on the fourth Saturday and Sunday in June, and this year it will fall on **28 / 29 June**. He emphasized to everyone that this is NOT a "contest", per se', - NOT something for anyone to be afraid of, but rather an event we can all attend and have fun at, with the emphasis being to promote amateur radio.

This year, the Vidal family has graciously offered the use of their acreage in English Hills as a place for us to

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President's Message from pg-1..Cont

form of a debit owed to the government. Even retirees do not escape this tax, as there is a provision for the SNAP TAP TAX (Sure Not Accounting for Productivity).

There does seem to be a provision for testing down to a previous license class, so you can get a tax break by forfeiting your current license class, (after taking a new 50 question written exam, and paying a hefty 45 dollar examination fee). You'll be then required to sign BCKTP in CW or "slash Back Tap" in voice.

HAPPY APRIL FOOLS DAY

Thanks,
73 Mike W6MAV

We will be having our pre-meeting diner (04/10/2014), at Yen King Restaurant, 1327 E. Monte Vista Ave, Vacaville, 5:30 PM. (Across from McDonalds on Hamburger Hill.)

VVRC Notes Continued fromPage1

set up our station. Jerry has the complete station ready to go, but could use some help to transport and set up the equipment. Although he's already got the antenna that has worked so well for us in the past, he offered that if you've got one that you particularly like and would like to try during this event, you just need to get in touch with him PRIOR to the event so that we can coordinate and help you set it up.

And hey - if you'd like to BBQ or ?? during all this, then please volunteer to coordinate it. Believe me, your efforts would be appreciated by everyone!

Jerry shared a little bit about how the ARRL is running the "*Centennial Contest*" to mark the 100th. year of operation. Each week there are two different stations on the air all week from two different states, changing each week, and if you can contact those stations and get into the log, by the end of the year you will qualify for the ARRL Worked All States award. It doesn't get any simpler than this! At this writing they're already about half-way through the 50 states for the first time, but they will start over again shortly and RE-run the states for those who have missed states for whatever reason. Why not give it a try?

Jerry asked Skip to share a little bit about how much fun he's having in this event. Besides "*bagging*" all the states so far, he's found and logged some 25 new countries world-wide while running up and down the bands – all of them between the Feb. and March meetings! He said that one of his most memorable contacts was with KC4AAA - the Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station Antarctica, where the annual average temperature is a balmy MINUS 58° F! His comment was that he's having more fun than anyone should legally be allowed to have, and only using 100W and a vertical antenna!

Hey – the sun-spot propagation can't be beat right now, so why not jump in and take advantage of it! If you need help – that's what we're all here for…. right?
Mike mentioned that our June meeting is planned to be a *family* "Pot-Luck" & BBQ. There will be NO meetings in July or August, and we will return to normal-ops again beginning in September.

SPECIAL REQUEST!: Is there someone in the membership who would be willing to help make this BBQ happen – who could make a couple of phone calls if necessary and coordinate the menu? Please contact Mike, Jerry, or Skip directly or let us know on the Tue. night VVRC net. Thanks!!

Jerry again reminded the membership that as a courtesy – please avoid checking onto the repeater frequency prior to our net time – 20:00 hr. Tue. nights, because a group in the North end of the state happens to have the same repeater pair that we have, and their net ends just prior to our start time. Thanks!

The drawing was won by our Treasurer – Bob – K6HEW. Way to go Bob!!

Break: 19:30

Returning from the break, we welcomed our guest speaker for the evening: Jill Childers, coordinator and instructor for the Vaca Community Emergency Response Team - VCERT. She presented a brief overview of the program itself and how it works, and the kind of training

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VACA VALLEY RADIO CLUB--2013

ELECTED OFFICERS

President: Mike Vieria, W6MAV
Vice President: Jerry Olive, KD6WKY
Secretary: Skip Lawson, AF6HC
Treasurer: Bob Hewitt, K6HEW

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Director: Antonio DelRio, N6ZGB
Director: Chris Jones, KD7TQO
Director: Arthur Miller, KI6UXE
Director: Richard Craig, KJ6MIB

APPOINTED POSITIONS

Net Control Chairperson: Chris Jones, KD7TQO
Club Activities Chairperson: Board of Directors
Newsletter Editor: Jerry Bowen, KJ6SCC
Newsletter Publisher & Distributor: Bob Hewitt, K6HEW

ARRL Field Day
June 28-29, 2014
Amateur Radio's most popular on-air operating event!
ARRLFD14
HAM RADIO
On the Air from Anywhere!
Show your support for ARRL Field Day with official merchandise. Shirts, hats, pins, patches and mugs available now!

The 2014 ARRL Field Day

Jerry Olive, KD6KDY

The 2014 ARRL Field Day is approaching soon and looks to be a fun one for our club. The location of our portable Field Day station will be the home QTH of Jorge and Maria Vidal over on English Hills Road.

The site address is 7828 English Hills Road, Vacaville, CA 95688. I have done a thorough reconnoiter of the property keeping shade, open space for antennas, parking, and accessibility at the top of the list for everyone.

We'll be finalizing details at the next meeting for who brings what, but the plan as I see it is for me to set up my portable HF station as a base. Club member should bring their antennas, radios, and other amateur radio gear to use and compare.

The idea is to have a working station up and running at the start of Field Day. You set up your favorite antenna and bring it on line for a spin to see how well it works. Same thing with any other gear you bring along. My 1KW generator can handle anything you bring.

A word of caution – It would be wise of you to take the time and set up your antennas and gear prior to Field Day to test them and understand them thoroughly to both save time and be safe. We don't want an antenna mast falling on anybody or anything, we also don't want to fry a radio. Go set your gear up at a local park on a Saturday afternoon with a friend and make all the mistakes you can, then take notes, correct the mistakes, and set it up. This is important.

The intent of Field Day is to have fun, it's not a contest. To make the event fun I am going to need volunteers for the following duties:

1 .Barbeque Chef which includes purchasing the supplies, the club will reimburse the expenses. A grill will be provided.

2. Publicity Coordinator who will contact local media following the Field Day rules.

3. Operators for the radio that is on the air. Everyone has to make at least one QSO!

4. Clean up crew. We want to make the Vidal property cleaner than when we arrived.

I will be facilitating an unsponsored amateur radio licensing exam on Saturday, June 7. I will invite everyone that tests to come out to Field Day. Be sure to tell all your friends!

Lastly, if someone wanted to coordinate a test session at Field Day, we could to that as well.

Major Solar Flare Erupts from the Sun

The sun unleashed a major solar flare on Saturday (March 29), causing a radio blackout for several minutes on Earth, space weather experts say.

The brief X1-class flare erupted from the now decaying sunspot AR2017 at 1:48 p.m. EDT (1748 GMT) on Saturday, according to a report from the NOAA-led Space Weather Prediction Center. Although AR2017 is dissipating, it may still produce more solar flares in the coming days, the report stated. NASA's Solar Dynamics Observatory caught sight of the solar blast.

The sun is in an active phase of its 11-year solar cycle. The star shot off an X-class flare at the beginning of January and another powerful X-class solar flare in February.

THE VVRC WELCOMES YOU

The Vaca Valley Radio Club has proudly served the Northern Solano County Area since 1988. We pride ourselves in providing a friendly place for radio amateurs to meet and improve their operating skills.

We participate in public service events throughout the year and are always ready to assist with communications during times of emergency.

Browsw our website for more information about our club. If you have any questions please e-mail us at w6vvr@w6vvr.net or call 707-448-5665 for assistance

The Repeater is Published by the Vaca Valley Radio Club, PO Box 143, Elmira, CA 95625-0143, An ARRL Affiliated Club. Founded 1987, Chartered 1988. General Meetings: 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM 420 Elmira Fire Station.

Wheelchair accessible

Visit the Repeater online courtesy of Bob K6HEW at: vacavalleyradio.net

Club repeater in Vacaville:W6VVR 145.470 MHz(-) pl 127.3
The W6VVR net call is Tuesday evenings at 8pm on the club repeater. All are invited to participate in this weekly meeting on the air. 73!

Additional local repeaters
WV6F 224.200(-)
WV6F 440.025(+)
WV6F 1291.900(-)

Continued from pg-2

that is offered to the citizens of Vacaville to prepare themselves to help – 1) themselves, 2) their neighborhood, and 3) the community at large in case of an emergency.

Jill Childers

Training consists of a 5-week course, held on Thursday evenings in the V.V. Pollice EOC room.

A number of VVRC members expressed their interest in taking these classes. The next course is scheduled to begin Thur. April 17, at 18:00 hr. and if YOU"RE interested, please contact Jill Childers @ 449-5482.

The meeting was adjourned at 20:05hr.in July or August, and we will return to normal-ops again beginning in September.

SPECIAL REQUEST!: Is there someone in the membership who would be willing to help make this BBQ happen – who could make a couple of phone calls if necessary and coordinate the menu? Please contact Mike, Jerry, or Skip directly or let us know on the Tue. night VVRC net. Thanks!!

Jerry again reminded the membership that as a courtesy – please avoid checking onto the repeater frequency prior to our net time – 20:00 hr. Tue. nights, because a group in the North end of the state happens to have the same repeater pair that we have, and their net ends just prior to our start time.

Respectfully submitted,
"Skip" Lawson – AF6HC

NET CONTROL OPERATORS
1st week of month-Jerry Bowen; KJ6SCC
2nd week of month-Richard Craig; KJ6MIB
3rd week of month-Chris Jones; KD7TQO
4th week of month-Marcus MacLean; KI6WDX
On months with 5 weeks-Bob Hewitt; K6HEW

Grow Light Ballast Causes HF Interference, Violates Rules

The ARRL has formally **complained** to the FCC, contending that a "grow light" ballast being widely marketed and sold is responsible for severe interference to the MF and HF bands. The League urged Commission action to halt sales of the Lumatek LK-1000 electronic ballast and to recall devices already on store shelves or in the hands of consumers. In a March 12 letter to the Commission's Enforcement Bureau and its Office of Engineering and Technology, ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, said the ARRL's own laboratory testing revealed that the Lumatek device exhibited excessive conducted emissions, in violation of the FCC's rules.

"ARRL has received numerous complaints from Amateur Radio operators of significant noise in the medium and high frequency bands between 1.8 MHz and 30 MHz from 'grow lights' and other RF lighting devices generally," Imlay told the Commission. "The level of conducted emissions from this device is so high that, as a practical matter, one RF ballast operated in a residential environment would create preclusive interference to Amateur Radio HF communications throughout entire neighborhoods." An extensive ***Conducted Emissions Test Report*** detailing the ARRL Lab's test results was attached to the League's correspondence.

" [T]he *Report* concludes from the conducted emissions tests that the six highest emissions from the device in the HF band vastly exceed the quasi-peak limit specified in Section 18.307(c) of the Rules," Imlay related. The ARRL further pointed out that, while a FCC sticker has been affixed to the device, it lacked FCC compliance information. FCC Part 18 rules require RF lighting devices to provide an advisory statement with the device, notifying users that it could interfere with radio equipment operating between 0.45 MHz and 30 MHz.

The League noted that the device is imported into the US and marketed and sold by Sears, where ARRL purchased its test sample, as well as by Amazon.com and other retail outlets. The ARRL also called on the FCC to consider enforcement proceedings against the importer, Hydrofarm Horticultural Products of Petaluma, California.

"ARRL respectfully requests that your office take the appropriate action with respect to this device without delay," Imlay's letter concluded. Copies of the correspondence were sent to the importer.

In separate correspondence to FCC Commissioner Ajit Pai, seeking his review of the complaint,

Continued on pg -6

THE BIT BUCKET

Vacaville schedules emergency response training

The local emergency response team will offer its spring class beginning April 17.

The Vacaville Community Emergency Response Team is looking for volunteers who can be called into action during disasters. Residents are educated about disaster preparedness and are trained in basic disaster response skills such as fire safety, flood safety, light search and rescue, team organization and disaster medical operations.

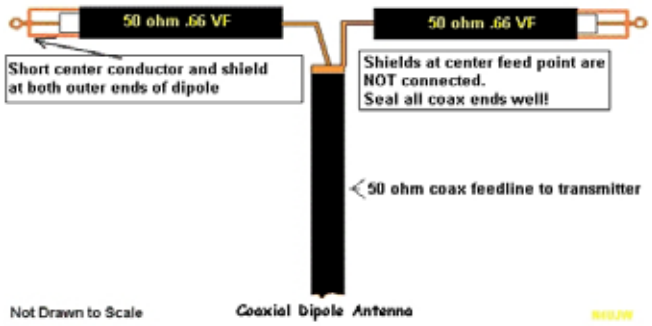
It is free for Vacaville residents 18 and older.

Classes will take place from 6 to 9 p.m. on five consecutive Thursdays, with the final class scheduled from 8 a.m. to noon May 17 – a Saturday. They will take place at the Emergency Operations Center of the Police Department, 660 Merchant St.

For more information, call 449-5471 or send an email to VCERT@cityofvacaville.com.

A simple dipole coaxial antenna for 10 meters.

10 Meter Dipole Project Using The Velocity Factor of Coaxial Cable To Reduce the Size Of Antennas


50 ohm .66 VF
50 ohm .66 VF
Short center conductor and shield at both outer ends of dipole
Shields at center feed point are NOT connected. Seal all coax ends well!
50 ohm coax feedline to transmitter
Not Drawn to Scale
Coaxial Dipole Antenna

This antenna is made using the .66 velocity factor of RG58, based on the project pagehttp://www.hamuniverse.com/K4mmg2and6meter.html

Using this idea, the antenna is shortened 30 to 40 percent less than the standard dipole! *See detail picture at top of the article.*

The math and construction is very simple! This antenna can be designed for the lower hf bands to greatly reduce the overall size versus the standard dipole type for those who have limited space for low band antennas.

Each side of the dipole is .66*[(300/28.450)/4] = meters for one half of the antenna.. ---------->

The originator used a RG58 foam (celular type).

The same math above in a more simple form: .66 X 75 / 28.450mhz = meters in length per side (We eliminate the extra division step by 4) Result is 1.73 meters per side = 5.67 feet when converted and 11.34 feet total span.

The standard dipole formula 468/freqmhz would give us an antenna 16.44 feet long total! This is about 31 percent longer! Or said in another way...using the velocity factor gives us an antenna 31 percent shorter!!!!

The antenna was mounted about 13.123 Feet above ground, in horizontal polarization and resulted in a perfect match with RG58 cable to the rig.

In the first test with the antenna mounted up about 13 feet resulted in a 1: 1.1 SWR.

Ref: Rubens, PY2RML
N4UJW, Hamuniverse.com

A little Reminder

If you would like to chat on-line about the VVRC, go to our new Twitter account @w6vvr and chat away.

Also we have a Facebook account, just go to Facebook and search for w6vvr and there you are.

One other thing is we also have a "blog", that's right a "blog", just do a Google search for Vaca Valley Radio Club Blog and enter your email address to follow all the comments. We are now in the 21st Century thanks to Frank KJ6EWQ our media guru guy.

Thanks to everyone for making this a great club,

Mike; W6MAV

THE NEW "OLD GEEZER" HAM LICENSE

1. No testing required. The person is nominated by fellow hams.
2. No call sign needed. The old geezer cannot remember it anyway.
3. No code; arthritis will hamper key use.
4. Cannot remember the code anyway.
5. Voice communication; AM not SSB. The old geezer still has his equipment from the 40's
6. 5. Limited to 1 crystal controlled frequency on 80 meters.
7. No limit on power output.
8. Two way contacts are not needed. Just get on the air and start a monologue of complaints.
9. When are you an "OLD GEEZER"? Your friends and fellow hams will let you know.
10. Hemorrhoids, prostrate, and the weather are favorite topics.

Continued from Grow Light Page 4

Imlay said the Lumatek unit was "typical in terms of its performance, and many other types of 'grow lights' are being imported, marketed, sold and deployed now." One of Pai's main interests is the revitalization of the AM Broadcast Band, where noise can be an impediment to reception. "It is not at all an exaggeration that even one of these electronic ballasts operated in a residential neighborhood makes any AM Broadcast reception impossible," Imlay asserted. The League included a copy of its test report with the letter to Commissioner Pai.

"Marked increases in the noise floor at MF and HF, year-over-year, are well-known to active Amateur Radio licensees, and it is devices such as the Lumatek LK-1000 and its progeny that are major contributors to this noise pollution," Imlay added.

Ref:: The ARRL Letter for March 20, 2014

Ever wonder wonder what QRM in a human form mightlook like?

Well, here he is, Mr. QRM in the flesh.

He Shows up frequently during DX contests

PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

VACAVALLEY RADIO CLUB, INC.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM

Please Print & Fill in Completely Dues are delinquent January 1st

Name: _____ Call Sign_____

Street:

_____

City: _____Zip:

_____

Phone: (_____) _____-_____OK to Publish ?(_____)

License Class: _____ ARRL Member ?(_____)

E-Mail
Address_____

FAMILY Member (Spouse or Children)

Name: _____ Call Sign_____
License Class: _____ARRL Member ?(_____)

Name: _____ Call Sign_____
License Class: _____ARRL Member ?(_____)

MEMBER Dues	$20.00	_____
Each Family Member	$ 2.00	_____
Student	$ 5.00	_____
Repeater/Autopatch donation		_____
Call/Name badge	$11.00	_____
Optional ARRL membership		
ARRL dues	$37.00	
Total		_____

Paid by CASH: Check # _____

DATE: _____

Mail to : Vaca Valley Radio Club, PO Box 143, Elmira, CA 95625-0143